

I claim

1. A method for producing, from a cast or forged blank having plane side faces, a connecting rod for a reciprocating-piston engine and having one little connecting-rod eye and one big connecting-rod eye, comprising the steps of:
 - grinding the plane side faces of the cast or forged blank in a first clamping station,
 - laser cutting the contour of the big connecting-rod eye while the cast or forged blank is held in a second clamping station, and
 - splitting the big connecting-rod eye in a pre-machining step by laser cutting along a parting plane running through an axis of said eye.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the contour of the little connecting-rod eye is also produced by laser cutting in the second clamping station.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the contour of the big connecting-rod eye corresponds to a cut of circular shape whose diameter is undersized by 0.5 to 1.5 mm compared with a journal diameter formed within the big connecting-rod eye.
4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the amount of the undersize is 0.6 to 1.0 mm.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the contour of the big connecting-rod eye corresponds to a cut of oval shape, wherein an elongation produced is equal to 0.5 to 2 mm, and is symmetric relative to the parting plane.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein a cut width of the laser cutting of about 0.2 mm is adjusted during such cutting.
7. A method according to claim 1, wherein, for pre-machining by laser cutting, the accuracy with which the cut is made is adjusted to about 0.1 mm by a program controller.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein, after pre-machining by laser cutting, the cast or forged blank is further machined to form a connecting-rod shank and a connecting-rod cap, which are machined separately in a third clamping station in a machining center.
9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the little connecting-rod eye is precision-machined by spindling or reaming.
10. A method according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of bolting the connecting-rod shank and the connecting-rod cap together and precision-machining the large connecting-rod eye by spindling or reaming.